A Mystery Story

# THE SOLITARY HOUSE:

THIS STARTS THE STORY

Keith Norton makes himself at home in a deserted house. Searching somebody who choked him while he slept he discovers a box of jewels and hides it. He finds in a woods a girl unconscious after being attacked by some mysterious creature and procures lodgings for her in the village. He receives an offer of a thousand dollars from a man named Wentworth if he will assist him in his plans, the stranger assuming that Norton knows what they are, Later he quarrels with the stranger and is set upon by a hairy creature who binds him and buries him in a shallow grave from which he with difficulty escapes. On his return to the house he finds it occupied by its former tenants, Dick Wentworth and his wife. While he talks to them they are visited by Dick's uncle, who, upbraiding his newphew for foolishness and villainy. tears up and burns the will be bad made in his favor. He goes off through the woods with Dick after him. Dick returns in a few minutes saying he couldn't see him anywhere.

### AND HERE IT CONTINUES

### The Hidden Jewelry

quickly: "you ought to have gone on, you would have seen him again at once." She paused and added with a little movement of her hands: "It would have been no good."

"No." agreed Dick moudily. "No." Keith had turned and was staring at the wood that lay so green and shady in the hot sunshine. The expression used by Dick that old Mr. Wentworth had "vanished" startled him for the moment, but he put away the momentary fear he experienced with the reflection that the old man had already come through the woods once with safety, and sides, it was broad daylight now, and then Keith was sure that the attack made on him the night before ind been personal and aimed only at himself. Still, it was odd, a little disturbing. that Dick should have chanced to use such an expression.

Dick, suffen and downcast, was in the act of entering the house when he

dently were by no means satisfied, shortly. and Keith said again;

some of the food I found, and then I likes. thought I would have a night's rest to murder me, strangle me. Whoever it be gael or marry Aggie Oateley, So I of beard?" was got away somehow. I don't know bow. If you have been nearly murdered in a house you may get to feel quite at home in it, naturally, so I stayed on, and I searched it thoroughly to see if I could find out why I had been attacked, and who by. In the box

"My jewelry!" Dick shouted. "You scoundrel; you stole them; you've got them; give me them back or or " "Don't be a fool," said Keith angrily, "Listen to me, will you?"

"No. I won't," Dick cried, "Where are they? Give them me of \_\_\_\_\_.
'You silly ass.' growled Keith.

"Keep your distance or I'll knock your head off." he added as Dick made a threatening movement forward. "Dick, Dick, don't!" Recuie cried,

interrupting. "Dick, you mustn't; listen to him; hear what he has to say "But he has the jewels," Dick cries "He wouldn't have told us that he had meant to keep them," Reenie

"Oh, well," muttered Dick, eyeing Keith doubtfully and resentfully.

I will show you presently," answered Keith, "if you will try not to make such a priceless fool of yourelf; you are only making things into a bigger mess than they are, you know." 'I don't see what business it is of yours," Dick said.

"I've told you two attempts have been made to murder me. If that doesn't give me some right to consider it's some business of mine, I don't know what would. What I want to under-\*stand is-well, who you are and who you are here, and what it all means?" "I should think you'd know; the old man was pretty candid, wasn't he?"

"There is very little to tell really." interposed Reenie, "and there is no reason why you shoudn't know it all.

if you want to. "That gentleman who was here just w is old Mr. Wentworth, Mr. Peter Wentworth. He is very rich, and some ers ago be adopted my husband as his But he wanted him very much rey a girl belonging to a very



"You silly ass!" growled Keitn. "Keep your distance or I'll knock your block off."

seemed to remember Keith's presence, world Dick saw the telegram, and he thought I might as well be hanged for a! "You've seen him; he's here?" bring a nie?" "Here you." he shouted, "clear out: in less than two minutes after he are take yourself off; what are you hangering the way always said it would all be mine some take yourself off; what are you hangering the way always and in less than two minutes after he are in less than two minutes after he are

"Here you," he shoulted, "clear out, in less than two minutes after he are take yourself of; what are you hang, ing about here for? Clear out and look. Seek and share you hang, sing about the yourself of; what are you hang, sing about the forth of the properties o

They both looked at him, but evi- "I bought them," answered Dick same.

"He wants all the rest of the world arms and legs and a face that looks South Africa for?" demanded Dick, here, as there seemed no one to object, to be clockwork and him to bave the all skin and bone, very little small During the night an attempt was made key. I knew if he found out it would bright eyes, and a very strong growth

## THE POST-MORTEM

I am here to admit that the world's full of error. The admiral flivvered; the general failed; Old Rumor breathed fakes that the papers retailed. The colonel was slow and the adjutant hasty;

And I herewith subscribe to the scandal-dish tasty That things as they are might be much better if-My. yes! I admit-and, admitting, forget it!

The "might-have-been" piffle is gumming the works. Regret puts a brake on the wheels if you let it. Reserve kills endeavor wherever she lurks. Post mortems are toys that the dopesters have fun with. The "doers" keep busy and stick to their text. The job that is finished is over and done with. What is now to be done is the question. What next? GRIF ALEXANDER.

"You might as well trust me. Let me he was going to the police and all the ask you a question. Do you know any thing about—jewelry? repeated Dick, starting violently. "Why do you say that? What do you know about it? Are you one of his lot?" asked Keith. "We shan't get much farther forward by show and a guestion. Do you know any thing about it ask you a question. Do you know any the was going to the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees somehow. I knew there was bound to give the old man his capital for his first out the other chaps, whose decided to listen to the other chaps, whose do listen to the other chaps, whose doubt it. I was his marriage to listen to the other chaps, whose doubt it. I was his marriage to listen to the other chaps, whose doubt it. I was his marriage settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees settlements he is heir unless expressly the accounts got wrong by degrees something. "All right," said Keith, "Come this to listen to the other chaps, whose doubt it. I was his marriage to ward it—"there's \* \* something."

"What do you know about it? Are you and the more he was going to the police and all the mother the marriage will. It was his marriage to listen to the other chaps, whose doubt to listen to the other chaps, whose the accounts got will exhibit the accounts got will exhibit. "All right," said Keith, "Come this way. In that wood"—he nodded to ward it—"there's \* \* something."

"Marlow's home was in Keeboo and the beginning of the was navious to get back. Brown and the beginning of the was anxious to get back. Brown and the beginning of the pow shan't get much farther forward by would have blown my brains out first. provided the good reason all right, and guestions and never answering So I didn't care much if the accounts the old man gave him the choice of them. I will tell you how I came to be did go wrong. But when I found I was been in South here. I was transping to I was the old go wrong. But when I found I was been in South here. I was transping to I was the old go wrong. But when I found I was been in South here. I was transping to I was transping to I was the old go wrong. But when I found I was when he adopted me. I was transping to I was transping to I was the old go wrong. But when I found I was when he adopted me. I was transping to I was the old go wrong the country or being prosecuted.

"Is this Bert a tall man with long tots and what not?"

The strong man was rash and the weakling showed terror; The statesman was changeable, spineless or stiff;

The seen enough to know some very two attempts made to murder me, for these jewels? Where do they come example, the path leaded of the standing and the standing a little and to the shopping and to the shopp

here. I was tramping to London, and 556 short and couldn't say how—I That was when he adopted me, I was went there. The jewelry—and windows made empty, with doors hadn't had it. I swear that; it was to be here instead of Bert. Of course "It is just here." Keith "Yes." said Dick impatiently, "he so keenly before. and windows open, and apparently left some mistake somewhere; I hadn't had it. I swear that; it was to be not instead of Bert. Of course in I is just here. Keith said. "I should be about done up and I helped myself to the whiphand of me. That's what he some of the food I found and there is the whiphand of me. That's what he is the should be in South Africa.—Bushmen and Hotten-tots and what not?"

looking very doubtful and angry.

you bluffing me about that jewelry?"
"No, I'll show it to you." answered Keith, "South Africa-oh, you and your jewelry be hanged together; if you had been through what I did last night you wouldn't be in such a stew about it. But it's just here,"

(TO BE CONTINUED)

the curious phenomenon is accounted for All the weariness dropped from Bob's Ruth, I know this must seem awfully by the supposition that a mulberry seed face, and he laughed heartily. "I'll be sudden to you dear, but I want you to and the young shoots came up side by to eat that delicious looking pie. the tree is on one side that of walnut yours.' and on the other that of the mulberry. -Milwaukee Sentinel.

## DAILY NOVELETTE

PIES VS. LIES By Nellie Gordon

Ar EXACTLY 1:45 p. m. Grace burst into the office fifteen minutes late. "Oh, girls," she almost shouted. What do you think? The Mt. Washington decks tomorrow afternoon at 2:30. And Jack's on it."

"So is Bill," cried May.

"And Joe," added Helen joyfully. office locked upon her with rather a mild, good-untured contempt, as one who never received invitations to go gered to his feet and dashed for the door.

She was not unattractive as to looks,

'yes." but a lump rose in her throat and she couldn't answer.

go on thinking that there was some one? erhaps they would treat her with a little more respect hereafter. And they need never know. She seldom met any of the girls after business hours, so the harmless deception would never be

manager made the announcement that view of the general interest shown in the docking of the transport the next afternoon would be a half-holiday so that the girls might go down to the

His words were greeted with great glee, and they immediately began mak-ing plans for the morrow. "I'll tell-yed what, girls," began Grace, the leading spirit, "we'll all go down to-gether direct from the office. And I was just thinking that the boys might appreciate something in the line of sweets. You know, they don't get much

him. But it would be like him all the be careful and think what we are going had felt upon hearing the noisy welto do. I have an idea there may be come had died away, leaving in its stead "Kechoo is a busy masufacturing lem-what's their name?"

> were hundreds of miles from here. He had never felt his lack of relatives quite again alone, Ruth began to voice her

The girls, after a hasty lunch, ar-"It is just here." Keith said. "I rived at the pier in due time. After the said. docking of the boat. Ruth had somehow become separated from the others in the monster crowd. She leaned

Suddenly, she spied one chap, standing alone, an unusual fact, as most of the fellows were surrounded by a small feminine army. At sight of his rather touched his arm. Crandall turned quickly, hat in hand,

and asked courteously, "Anything I can do for you?

All of Ruth's newly nequired cour-Freak Tree

We are told that in Kentucky there is a tree bearing each year a crop of blurted out the whole tale.

Why, yes—cr. that is—you see. I—, suddenly the girls hove into sight, and her courage returned, and she quickly week of my life," announced Bob. "and blurted out the whole tale.

Paly | I dread going back home tomorrow. Oh, I dread going back home tomorrow are navigally

fell where a walnut lay in the ground, delighted to act as your fiance, and also side and united their forces into one name is Robert Crandall, and as I besolid trunk. This supposition seems lieve it is customary for people to know forgot her terrible shyness, and promfensible from the fact that the bark on each other's names, I will have to ask ised. Then the girls joined them and intro-

ductions followed. When they were and Diplomacy.

# DREAMLAND ADVENTURES -- By Daddy

(Peggy and Billy go to Cinderella' ball which is broken up when Red Beard appears among the dancers disquised as an elephant, Gilly saves Peggy from the Turk, but is himself placed in danger.)

OSTRICH LOSES HIS HEAD

RED BEARD'S dancing apparently hadn't made him tired, while Billy was all out of breath from blowing the Every one had answered except quiet
Ruth Brent. A comparatively new arrival in the city, her seemingly unconlada't made quick use of his wits. Billy querable shyness formed a barrier between herself and young people of both suddenly turned and made a football sexes. The other three girls in the tackle, grabbing the Turk by the legs,

"Climb on my back," whistled Opbut her charm was of the sert that did timistic Ostrich, meeting him half way, not flash upon one at first glance, but In another instant Billy was beside rather grew upon one, and few people Peggy and the ostrich was skidding for which Optimistic Ostrich was headhad seemed to bother to study her after across the slippery waxed floor. Red ing was swift and turbulent. Beard lurched to his feet and followed. "I notice Ruth hasn't said anything." Peggy saw to her alarm that the tumble with the river five yeards away, he was teased Grace. "I'll wager there's some had split the elephant skin and the Turk only a yard behind. He was sure to my back, but there's still a way to get special 'he' on that boat that she's was drawing his gleaming scimitar. thinking about. Come, 'fess up, bashful- Red Beard in his rage forgot the slip- water.

So sayi

bump.

Ruth opened her mouth to protest, but stopped. Why shouldn't she let them timistic Ostrich, loaded as he was, shrinking. He was madder than n wet stopped out faster than the fastest race hen when he waded out of the river got away from Red Beard," Peggy wonhandicapped by the cumbersome ele- trich,

in the elephant skin. And looking ahead started to wade across.

they saw that the river at the point. The water was deep and the current



"CINDERELLA'S BALL"

Inch by inch Red Beard gained until,

That gave Optimistic Ostrich time to kicked out with one of his powerful far over the woods, and through a mistre "I knew it." triumphed Grace; "she get out of the door before Red Beard legs and sent fat Turk plunging over white cloud, and right into her seat at

horse, but Red Beard, in spite of being and started again after Optimistic Os , dered. But she didn't need to worry

until Peggy and Billy could see his Beard was drawing so close that he piggy eyes squinting through the slits plunged into the raging torrent and

was swift. Soon Optimistic Ostrich was struggling for his life. By gigantic struggles he succeeded in gaining a large rock near the center of the stream, but the river ahead looked so dangerous that

the river ahead looked so dangerous that he hesitated before going farther.

"I'll get you yet," yelled Red Beard, With that he flung his scimitar straight at them. Peggy and Billy dedged, but Cytimistic Ostrich couldn't get his long neck out of the way. Whish! The scimitar struck it, going through it like a knife through soft butter. To Peggy's horror Optimistic Ostrich's head dropped into the water and was swent away.

But surprising to say Optimistic Os-

"Ho, ho," came a jolly voice from inside his body. "I've lost my head, but I'll still get the better of Red Beard. He isn't the only one who can wear a disguise."

Peggy and Billy, much astonished, looked down into the neck to see the grinning face of the Giant of the Woods.

"This river is too deep to wade, and I can't swim with you youngsters on

So saying, the Giant of the Woods Poor Ruth's cheeks burned with humiliation: if she were only able to say and down he sat with a walloping stream he dodged aside, and as Red sight. Then he gave Peggy a mighty doesn't answer. That's why she has came in pursuit.

She's been waiting for the plain toward the distant river. Op
the plain toward the distant river. Op-

about that, for the Giant was a powerful phant hide, covered the ground with astonishing speed.

At first Optimistic Ostrich ran along the bank looking for a shallow crossing a bath, not even to capture a fee what had outwitted him.

(In the fext story Peggy and Billy have an adventure of another

## BRUNO DUKE, Solver of Business Problems

By HAROLD WHITEHEAD, Author of "The Business Career of Peter Flint," etc.

THE PROBLEM OF THE FIRE IN- | being the center of a big trading dis-SURANCE AGENTS Keehoo, Michigan

"EVER heard of Keehoo, Mich?" ticular. of that in the army, so why wouldn't We had been riding for about an hour. it be a good idea for each of us to I had been reading St. Elmo Lewis's leys?"

surance people? What's their prob-

"How can I ever thank you?" she agencies in Keehoo, several good com-

in the monster crowd. She learned me this wonderful city of yours while I companies, two life insurance compa- sounds like a page from a legal docu-a week, and then I leave for the west," accident company. answered the young man.

Ruth assented, and then began a ance in Detroit, so determined to make papers? wonderful week for the two lonely a drive for it in Keehoo. youngsters. Although Ruth had been "Now, Peter, as you probably know,

habit of doing, and they walked toward than I do from your experience with age seemed to coze away from her. "Why, yes—er, that is—you see, I—"

come with me, or I shall die of loneli-

trict, many national concerns maintain offices there. The Ellard Hotel is a big eight-story affair, modern in every par thenlar. Got any idea of what the town's like?"

"Yes, I think so. What about trol-

"I see. Now what about those in-

to means satisfied, shortly. "You heard what he said in:

"I bought them, answered Dick same."

"Who is Bert?"

"They trade as Marlow & Brown—

about my accounts being short, and how in a point in the state of loneliness. If only there is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the police and all the mother is dead, but under the marriage of the pol

themselves. "They looked over the field and found that while there were three strong

panies were not represented.

weary face, a daring idea popped into her head. She walked over to him and in the city a few months, she had seen when people take out fire insurance they of the other information. Before they very little of it, and the outings were usually take a three or five year policy. as wonderful to her as to her compan- Life insurance prospects take time to work-you have to know a bit about it But the happy week drew to a close before you can expect to do much busias all happy things seem to have a ness—but you know more about that graph let's straighten the first a bit and

> two men, Marlow about forty, and Brown, about twenty-five, are in Keehoo with money enough to carry them for about a year. The people they see to get fire insurance are covered for all firm). periods from a year to five years. For every twenty people they see perhaps only one will have a policy expiring this year. Nice little problem, isn't it?"

"Here, then, is the problem. These

What is "Cartage"? Answer will appear Monday. ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S BUSINESS QUESTION A "Certified Check" is one ac-cepted by the bank on which it is

TODAY'S BUSINESS QUESTION

In this space Mr. Whitchead will ancer readers' business questions on buy-

ing, selling, advertising and employment. Business Questions Answered

them to the hard usage of train rading.

"You can walk on a wooden leg," he said one day, "but you can't see very well out of a glass eye."

I had started at his sudden question. "Keehoo? No-I can't say that I have."

"Well you ought to have looked it up before we left. Never go to a town on business without first looking it up in a good encyclopedia. The more advanced knowledge you have of a place the city Hall leads to the between the station and the woodeney looked you have of a place the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the city Hall leads to the between the station and the completing this course, I was recommended by a friend of ours to a wholesale clothing manufacturing section of the flown. The street between the station and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and some you get there. Still I suppose I can't expect much from you until after October 22."

His reference to my approaching wedding made me blush slightly, but he will be stored to prosite that is a movie house leads to the better class resident and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and the city Hall leads to the streets back of Market, going through Hill street, lead to the shopping and to the poorer home districts. Hill street is the main shopping street in Keehoo."

Heng interested in your daliv stories. I wish to end of the search of purisher to end of the search of the station and the countries and an abunch of the street between the station and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and the countries of the street between the station and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and the city Hall leads to the better class resident and the city Hall leads to the better class resid

I consider me an applicant for the position.

I am 'wenty years of age. I have had
three years' experience as bookkeeper in
a wholesaile clothing house and am well
acquainted with trial balance, balance
sheet, profit and loss, etc. I have completed one year of accountancy and law
and economics at — mployed and can furnish best of references from this concern.
I shall expect 170 to start.
Solieiting an interview, I remain, yours
very truly.

You ask what are the clinching arguments that are lacking in your letter, 'Answer," all of them.

Your first paragraph lacks punch. "They had specialized on fire insur- bookkeeper advertised in this morning's

Let your second paragraph start with

what your experience has been. To of the other information. Before they read what you have done they say, "Oh, he is only twenty; he is too young.

Before we consider the second para-

make it rend: 'Do the following qualifications fit me for the position of bookkeeper advertised in today's paper?' Then start your second paragraph !

"I have a thorough knowledge of trial balances, balance sheets" (and Then close your letter with: "I am year and many of those won't think of changing agencies. All they want is a with a good concern than I am over The next complete novelette-Rich list of people whose policies expire this getting a better job. If you will give me'nn opportunity in your organization, I assure you that the very best that is

'Three years' experience as bookkeeper

may tell you in person why I am the man you need?" Kill the "I remain, your very truly," and in place of it say, "Very truls"!
Rewrite this letter along the lines I have suggested and then compare it with your letter.

in me will be at your disposal. Will

you grant me an interview, so that I

### He Was Versatile

A soldier was pleading with his battalion commander. "You are always on leave," exclaimed the officer. "What on earth do you want special leave for

"My sister's baby's going to be vacel-"And what has that got to do with you?"

Tommy, with a hurt look, "What; the baby?" "No, sir, the baby's sister's my brother—I mean I'm the mother's baby er-the father's my sister.

"She's my sister, sir," explained

mean..."
"You mean," broke in the battalion commander angrily. "What do they want you for? That is the point."
"For a godmother, sir."—Chicago

DOROTHY DARNIT-His Family Must Have Neglected That Duck's Education



